

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 USIA-06 /018 W

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R 091014Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4068

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3047

FOR CU/AF DIRECTOR WACHOB FROM EDMONDSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, SF

SUBJECT: DR. SELMA BROWDE: NOMINATION FOR MULTIREGIONAL
PROJECT

REF: STATE 167083

1. SURPRISED AT TONE OF REFTTEL, GIVEN FACT TONY DALSIMER WAS PRESENT WHEN IV SELECTION COMMITTEE DISCUSSED BROWDE NOMINATION AND DECIDED SHE WAS GOOD CANDIDATE, ESPECIALLY IF APPROPRIATE MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT WERE AVAILABLE, DESPITE PREVIOUS PRIVATE VISITS TO US. EXCEPT FOR BRIEF CHRISTMAS VACATION VISIT TO NYC IN 1975, PREVIOUS VISITS WERE PRIMARILY LIMITED LG SCIENTIFIC-PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND CONSULTATION AND GAVE HER LITTLE EXPOSURE TO BROADER ASPECTS OF US POLITICAL-CULTURAL LIFE. AMONG OTHER THINGS, WE KNOW SHE DOES NOW HAVE FULL OR BALANCED PERCEPTION OF MULTI-ETHNIC ASPECTS OF US SOCIETY AND IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE THERE ARE RELATIVELY FEW BLACK-WHITE CONTACTS IN US SOCIETY AND THAT INTEGRATION IS MORE LEGAL RIGHT THAN SOCIOLOGICAL FACT.

2. DR. BROWDERLY WHO HAS OCCASIONALLY BEEN SUGGESTED AS POSSIBLE EVENTUAL SUCCESSOR TO HELEN SUZMAN IN PRP POLITICAL SCENE, HAD DUBIOUS DISTINCTION DURING SOWETO RIOTS OF RECEIVING WRITTEN NOTICE FROM JOHANNESBURG'S CHIEF MAGISTRATE WARNING HER AGAINST "INTERFERING" IN THE UNREST IN WITWATERSRAND AREA. PHRASE "PERIPATETIC" SOCIAL ACTIVIST CAMPAIGNER USED BY
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DRAFTER OF OUR A-47 PROBABLY GAVE UNFORTUNATE PERJURATIVE

IMPRESSION NOT INTENDED, FOJ DR. BROWDE IS SERIOUS AND DEDICATED CHAMPION OF BETTER DEAL FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S URBAN BLACKS, EXHIBITING CONCERN FOR SOME OF THE VERY PROBLEMS THAT ARE AMONG ROOT CAUSES OF RECENT VIOLENCE.

3. UNLESS MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT ON ROLE OF WOMEN IN POLITICAL PROCESS IS SIMPLY INTENDED AS TOURIST TOUR OF US (WHICH WE WOULD NOT WANT FOR HER), WE DO NOT BELIEVE DR. BROWDE'S PREVIOUS VISITS ARE RELEVANT TO THE NOMINATION. IT NOT OUR INTENTION SIMPLY PROVIDE HER WITH FREE TICKET TO US (SHE WOULD PROBABLY PAY HER OWN WAY THERE IF WE ASKED) BUT TO INCLUDE HER IN PROJECT THAT WILL PROVIDE REAL INSIGHTS INTO WOMEN'S ROLE IN POLITICS, PROJECT IN WHICH SHE WOULD CONTRIBUTE AS WELL AS LEARN MUCH OF SIGNIFICANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA'S SPECIAL SITUATION AND US ATTITUDES TOWARD IT.

4. IF CU DISAPPROVES BROWDE NOMINATION WE WOULD FIND IT HELPFUL TO HAVE MORE CAREFUL DEFINITION OF DEGREE TO WHICH PREVIOUS TRAVEL TO US NECESSARILY DISQUALIFIES OTHERWISE GOOD CANDIDATES FOR CU SPONSORSHIP. WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT NATURE OF SUCH VISITS WAS IMPORTANT, I.E. THAT PREVIOUS PRIVATE VISITS PER SE WOULD NOT BE DISQUALIFYING IF THEY OCCURRED SEVERAL YEARS EARLIER OR IF THEY WERE OF SUCH BRIEF DURATION

OR LIMITED EXTENT AS NOT TO PROVIDE RELATIVELY FULL, BALANCED PICTURE OF US SOCIETY AND/OR OF SUBJECT AREA FOR WHICH A CU PROJECT IS BEING PROPOSED. WE HAVE GENERALLY NOT CONSIDERED BRIEF GOVERNMENT OR BUSINESS VISITS ONLY TO NYC OR WASHINGTON, ATTENDANCE AT SHORT CONFERENCES, OR BRIEF TRANSITS ENROUTE TO OTHER COUNTRIES AS DISQUALIFYING. YOUR COMMENT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRETOR03047
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760265-0446
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760774/aaaacmsm.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 167083
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DR. SELMA BROWDE: NOMINATION FOR MULTIREGIONAL PROJECT
TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, SF, (BROWDE, DR SELMA)
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006